REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courteous and thorough interview of November 27.

An amended Claim 8 was presented for the Examiner's consideration during the interview. Claim 8 as amended herein is not that one presented to the Examiner during the interview. Rather claim 8 amended herein is based on the suggestions made by the Examiner for inclusion of formula in the claims. A marked up version of the claim amendments is attached hereto. The amino acids recited in claim 8 are supported by original claim 5. Definition of Z1 and Z2 is based on p.5, 1.4-5 and 1.18-19, of the specification. The substituent (a) is described at p.6, 1.25-27, 37-38.

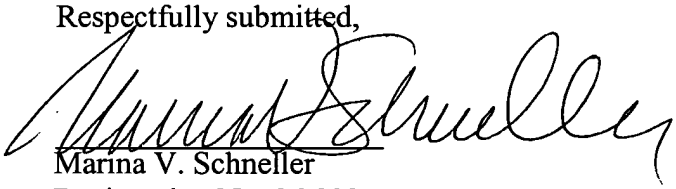
The new claims added hereby find support in the specification as follows: Claim 19 is supported by page 4 lines 8-12. Claim 20 is supported by page 4 lines 8-12 .Claim 21 is supported by page 7 lines 1-2. Claim 22 is supported by page 7 lines 4-5. Claims 25 and 34 are supported by page 5, line 8 of the specification. The requisite fee is enclosed.

Cancellation of Claim 17 renders moot the rejection of that claim.

In applicants' view, all claims are patentable over the applied references. The esters, described in the excerpts relied upon by the Patent Office are not the reagents of the claims.

Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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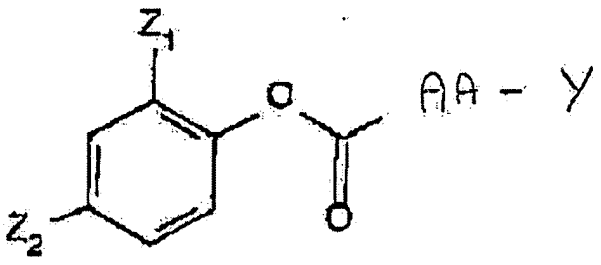
MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

8. (Amended) A reagent [based on an enantiopure amino acid in which at least one amino group of the amino acid carries an activating group in order to form an active precursor of an isocyanate or isothiocyanate group and in which at least one carboxyl group of the amino acid is substituted] selected from a group of compounds having general formula (II)



(II)

wherein AA is an enantiopure amino acid selected from the group consisting of alanine, valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, serine, isoserine, homoserine, threonine, allothreonine, methionine, ethionine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, asparagine, cysteine, cystine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, lysine, arginine, histidine, ornithine, glutamine, citrulline, (1-naphthyl)alanine, (2-naphthyl)alanine, homophenylalanine, (4-chlorophenyl)alanine, (4-fluorophenyl)alanine, (3-pyridyl)alanine, phenylglycine, diaminopimelic acid (2, 6-diaminoheptane-1, 7-dioic acid), 2-aminobutyric acid, 2-aminotetralin-2-carboxylic acid, erythro-β-methylphenylalanine, threo-β-methylphenylalanine, threo- β-methylphenylalanine, (2-methoxyphenyl)alanine, 1-amino-5-hydroxyindan-2-carboxylic acid, 2-aminoheptane-1, 7-dioic acid, (2, 6-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)alanine, erythro- β-methyltyrosine and threo-β-methyltyrosine;

wherein, at least one of Z_1 and/or Z_2 is a substituent selected from group consisting of groups having a negative inductive effect and groups having a negative resonance effect or both;

and Y is selected from the group consisting of (a) and (b), wherein

(a) is a substituent comprising at least one ether bond, and

(b) is a substituent comprising a chromophore selected from aromatic systems substituted in the 2 or 4 position by a substituent having a negative inductive effect and a negative resonance effect, (2-anthraquinoyl)methyl, and (9-(9H-fluorenylmethyl)) groups.